

Dear Committee members - I am not sure that I understand the reasoning behind the debate to close off the Social Security Death Index. This a valuable source of information for those of us who are pursuing our past. Social Security records have enable many of us to trace our ancestry and locate living relatives. It would seem that this information should be available to us by way of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act which was enacted many years ago to make our government more transparent. You might also be cutting off an important source of revenue since accessing these genealogical records requires a fee to possess. I am co-president of the Italian Genealogical Group. We host a tremendous data base of vital records for our ancestors on our web site. These records have enabled our membership to make the journey back to their ancestral roots. Sealing the SSDI would rob us of these essential ancestral records and make our journey back to the future that much more difficult. I urge you and the members of your committee to recommend that the SSDI continue to be available to us.

Yours turly,

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